

## The MS Access NEI Input Format (NIF) Shell

The MS Access data base contains the tables (or records) that make up the NEI Input Format. The data base contains 8 tables for point sources, 5 tables for area sources, 3 tables for mobile sources, and 2 tables for biogenic sources. The MS Access data base is a complete shell of the NEI Input Format, it is not a shell of the EPA's NEI Oracle data base(s). The MS Access shell does not contain any data, only empty tables. The MS Access shell does include data element descriptions and data element validation rules to enforce mandatory data fields and relationships between the various tables / records of the NIF.

The 'design view' for each table in the MS Access shell has been developed in a manner to reinforce data entry according to the NIF specifications. In addition, an Export Specification has been developed and saved with each table to help ensure that the files exported from the shell database adhere to the Format version in use. *To maintain this consistency, do not alter the shell in any way.*

**\* See the special instructions below on how to use the Export Specifications that are included with the shell data base \*. After data export, each resulting text file should be checked to confirm that the data file adheres to the NIF specifications of the version in use.**

There are two primary uses for the NIF as a MS Access data base. First, it can be used as additional documentation of the NEI Input Format (Documentation of the NIF is also available in Excel). Second, it can be used to load data from an external State or local system . Data loaded into these tables could then be exported to ASCII text files and sent to EPA. A third potential use is to use this data base shell as the preliminary design for a State or local system.

EPA will update this data base shell with any changes made to the NEI Input Format. EPA will also answer questions related to the implementation of the NEI Input Format in this data base file type. EPA does not intend to provide support for State or local agencies that use this tool to build an emission inventory system.

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### \* Special Instruction for using the MS Access Export Specifications

1. File > Save As / Export .....
2. > To an External File or Database (Set filename and path; Select File type = Text [\*.txt])
3. > Export (Export Text Wizard appears)
4. > Fixed Width
5. > Advanced
6. > Specs... (Here is where we have saved the export specs for you to use. Select and Open the Export Spec for the table you are exporting from.)
7. > OK (Selecting ok exports the table data as a .txt file using the custom export specs and saves it with the name and path specified to step 2. )